

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1                   1.     A payment system for open loop stored benefit products, the payment  
2 system comprising:

3                   a web-accessible platform available to a payor for purchase of a stored benefit  
4 account for use by a payee, wherein:

5                   the web-accessible platform communicates with a first  
6 application interface,

7                   the stored benefit account is backed by an account issuer, and  
8                   the stored benefit account is accepted by a network of

9                   unrelated merchants who accept payments from the account issuer;

10                  a web interface that allows the payor or the payee to interact with the web-  
11 accessible platform;

12                  a credit processing system communicating with a second application interface;  
13 and

14                  a translation system that translates between the first application interface and  
15 the second application interface.

1                   2.     The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the payor pays for the stored benefit account.

1                   3.     The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the credit processing system includes a main frame running a main frame  
3 language.

1                   4.     The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein:

3                   a card is issued to the payee, and  
4                   the card facilitates payments from the stored benefit account.

1                   5.     The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the first application interface uses XML.

1                   6.     The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the stored benefit account corresponds to a benefit table for use by the  
3 network.

1                   7.        The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the stored benefit account corresponds to an amount of money usable with  
3 the network.

1                   8.        The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the translation system is integral with one of the credit processing system  
3 and the web-accessible platform.

1                   9.        The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the web interface is hosted remote from the web-accessible platform.

1                   10.      The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the web-accessible platform does not store information that would allow a  
3 hacker, who compromised information stored on the web-accessible platform, to use the  
4 stored benefit account.

1                   11.      The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the account issuer is one of a plurality of account issuers that are part of a  
3 branded association that accept each others stored benefit account transactions.

1                   12.      The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 1, wherein the open loop stored benefit products are based upon a credit card platform  
3 of the credit processing system.

1                   13.      A payment system for open loop stored benefit products, the payment  
2 system comprising:

3                   a web-accessible platform available to a payor for purchase of a stored benefit  
4 account for use by a payee, wherein:

5                   the web-accessible platform communicates with a first  
6 application interface,

7                   the stored benefit account is backed by an account issuer, and

8                   the stored benefit account is accepted by a network of  
9 unrelated merchants who accept payments from the account issuer;

10                  a web interface that allows the payor or the payee to interact with the web-  
11 accessible platform;

12                   a credit processing system communicating with a second application interface;  
13                   and

14                   a translation system that translates between the first application interface and  
15                   the second application interface, wherein the account issuer is one of a plurality of account  
16                   issuers that are part of a branded association that accept each others stored benefit account  
17                   transactions.

1                   14.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the payor pays for the stored benefit account.

1                   15.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the credit processing system includes a main frame running a main frame  
3                   language.

1                   16.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein:

3                   a card is issued to the payee, and  
4                   the card facilitates payments from the stored benefit account.

1                   17.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the first application interface uses XML.

1                   18.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the stored benefit account corresponds to a benefit table for use by the  
3                   network.

1                   19.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the stored benefit account corresponds to an amount of money usable with  
3                   the network.

1                   20.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the translation system is integral with one of the credit processing system  
3                   and the web-accessible platform.

1                   21.       The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2                   claim 13, wherein the web interface is hosted remote from the web-accessible platform.

1                   22. The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 13, wherein the web-accessible platform does not store information that would allow a  
3 hacker, who compromised information stored on the web-accessible platform, to use the  
4 stored benefit account.

1                   23. The payment system for open loop stored benefit products as recited in  
2 claim 13, wherein the open loop stored benefit products are based upon a credit card platform  
3 of the credit processing system.

1                   24. A payment system for open loop stored benefit products, the payment  
2 system comprising:

3                   a web-accessible platform available to a payor for purchase of a stored benefit  
4 account for use by a payee, wherein:

5                   the web-accessible platform does not store information that  
6 would allow a hacker, who compromised information stored on the web-  
7 accessible platform, to use the stored benefit account,

8                   the web-accessible platform communicates with a first  
9 application interface,

10                  the payor pays for the stored benefit account,

11                  the stored benefit account corresponds to an amount of money  
12 usable with a network,

13                  the stored benefit account is backed by an account issuer, and  
14                  the stored benefit account is accepted by the network of  
15                  unrelated merchants who accept payments from the account issuer;

16                  a web interface that allows the payor or the payee to interact with the web-  
17 accessible platform;

18                  a credit processing system communicating with a second application interface;  
19                  and

20                  a translation system that translates between the first application interface and  
21                  the second application interface, wherein:

22                  the open loop stored benefit products are based upon a credit  
23                  card platform of the credit processing system,

the account issuer is one of a plurality of account issuers that are part of a branded association that accept each others stored benefit account transactions,

a card is issued to the payee, and

the card facilitates payments from the stored benefit account.